1925

Knighton.

November 16, 1926.

Knighton Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen.

I beg to submit the following supplementary report for 1925 as requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

As before stated the District is a very scattered one comprising 16 parishes, but no village with a population of as much as 100 persons. The particulars asked for are as follows.

1. Activities under Meat Regulations. There are no butchers in the district.

2. Legislation in force. There are no local Acts or adoptive Byelaws in force.

3. Water supply. In a few of the villages water is laid on to standpipes, but most of the houses have their own supply from shallow wells or springs.

4. Chemical work. I analysed 6 samples of drinking water brought me by the Inspector, no other chemical work was necessary.

5. River pollution. This is so slight as to be negligible.

6. Drainage and Sewerage. No system of sewerage is possible or required; in nearly all cases the closets are privies which are emptied by the occupiers and what sewage there is (mostly slop water) finds its way into a ditch or watercourse.

7. Closet accommodation. As stated above, closets are nearly always privies which are emptied on to the land.

8. Scavenging. No system of scavenging is possible or necessary.

9. Milk supply. The seven registered milk sellers send their milk outside the district; they and their premises have been frequently inspected and no grounds of complaint have been found. The people in the district are practically all farmers or farm labourers. The farmers have their own milk and also supply their labourers. Milk may certainly be considered to be up to a satisfactory standard of wholesomeness.

10. Sanitary conditions in the schools. School closets are on the pail system, the pails being emptied daily by the school cleaners. All schools have a satisfactory water supply laid on.

11. The Inspector made 150 inspections in the course of his systematic inspection of the district; 4 formal notices were served and several letters written requesting the remedying of minor sanitary defects.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) JOHN A.H.GRIFFITHS.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for 1925.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary condition of the Knighton Rural District for the year 1925; this report is also intended to be a survey of the progress made during the last 5 years. As regards this, it will be understood that as the District is very scattered, purely agricultural and contains no village with a population of as much as 100 persons, no great strides in health services are possible. Housing conditions generally are quite up to the average of rural districts and as good as they were five years ago.

1. General Statistics.

Area 88,667 acres.
Population (estimated at middle of 1925) 4,267
Number of Inhabited Houses, 971
Rateable Value, £47,533. Assessable Value, £24664.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £103.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	75	33	42	Birth-rate 18·7 per 1000.
	Illegitimate	5	3	2	

The Birth-rate for England and Wales was 18·3 per 1000.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Deaths—	61	29	32	Death-rate 14·2 per 1000.

The Death-rate for England and Wales was 12·2 per 1000.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total 8 { Legitimate: Males 3 Females 5
Illegitimate: Males – „ Nil

Infantile death-rate 100 per 1000 births.

There was one death from Measles, one from Whooping Cough and one from diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small pox ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet fever ...	1	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ...	Nil	Nil	1
Enteric fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal fever ...	Nil	Nil	1
Pneumonia ...	5	Nil	4

There were no cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum.

Tuberculosis.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—				
1	—	—	—	—				
5	—	—	—	—				
10	1	—	—	1				
15	—	—	—	—				
20	1	—	—	—				
25	1	2	1	—				
35	—	—	—	—				
45	1	—	1	—				
55	—	1	—	—				
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—				
Totals	4	3	2	1	2	4	—	—

4. There were no specially noteworthy Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

5. Professional Nursing in the home.

Five trained Nurses are working in the district, all are provided by local associations and subsidized by the County Council, only Three actually live in the district, viz—Beguildy, Llangunllo and Llanbister, at least one or two more are required to adequately cover the area.

Midwives—No Midwives are subsidized or employed as such by the public health authority. There were five midwives actually living and practising in the district, but several others from outside practise within the district. There is undoubtedly a scarcity of midwives.

Maternity and Child-welfare Centres—None have been established in the district but the centres at Knighton and Presteign are easily available for some parts of the district.

Tuberculosis—All notified cases are seen by the Tuberculosis physician.

Venereal Diseases—Arrangements for these cases, which are extremely rare, have been made by the County Council.

Hospitals—Tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Maternity Hospitals—Nil.
Children's Hospitals—Nil.

Fever Hospitals—The Isolation Hospital maintained by the Knighton and Teme Joint Hospital Board is within the district, but the accomodation is very insufficient and cases of only one disease can be taken at a time. This hospital is also available for Smallpox.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers or illegitimate infants, these would if necessary, go to the Institute of the Knighton Union.

Ambulance Facilities—An ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital.

6. Laboratory Work.

The District Council have an arrangement with the Chemical Research Association for the examination of Diphtheria swabs.

7. Sanitary Administration.

There are no public Bakehouses or places where the food is prepared for the public use.

No Slaughter-houses.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector,

There were only 7 small dairies and cowsheds on the register, these were inspected regularly and were always found clean.

8. Public Health Staff.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector comprise the staff, both are part time Officers.

9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(A)	Total	Nil
(B)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924.	
(1)	By the Local Authority	
(2)	By other bodies of persons	

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects, under Public Health or Housing Acts. 62

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District Regulations 1910. 84

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 7

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(A)—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act 1919.

1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	4
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	4
(A)	by owners	
(B)	by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	4
2.	Numbers of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	4
(A)	by owners	
(B)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(C)—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act. 1909. ... ...

1.	Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing Orders.	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
5.	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. K. GRIFFITHS.

Knighton, July 17th, 1926.